

**Alabama Department of  
Public Health**

**Fire Safety  
Resource Manual**





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STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC HEALTH**

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Donald E. Williamson, MD  
State Health Officer

August 2003

Dear Service Providers:

Over the past decade Alabama has consistently remained in the top ten nationally for fire-related deaths and injuries. Fortunately, recent numbers have demonstrated a decline in the number of deaths and injuries. It is our intention to continue to provide resources and services to help further reduce these numbers.

The Alabama Fire Safety Resource Manual was created to provide a good reference for fire prevention activities and resources available in our state. It contains a list of organizations and agencies dedicated to increasing fire safety awareness. Although this list is not all-inclusive it does provide valuable information available statewide.

Please use this guide to promote fire safety awareness and share it with other interested organizations in your area. With your help, we can reduce fire fatalities and increase safety education in Alabama!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda E. Calhoun".

Amanda E. Calhoun, MSPH  
Alabama Department of Public Health  
Fire Safety Program Manager

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# ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES:

## LOCATION: STATEWIDE

The Alabama Association of School Nurses is an affiliate of the National Association of School Nurses. Founded in 1971, the Alabama Chapter supports school nursing practice and school nurses as they work to support student health. The Alabama Association of School Nurses supports the coordinated school health approach to caring for the whole student within the school, community and family. Members of this professional organization collaborate with community and government agencies to provide health and safety education to students in the schools served by providing resources to the classroom teachers and by direct educational services. Unfortunately, due to the large number of schools and the low number of school nurses, many schools do not receive these educational services through their school nurses. School Nurses also provide direct nursing services to students that require these services during the school day, provide for faculty and staff wellness programs, provide health screenings, and

public health surveillance programs.

## Resources:

Educational handouts and videos on fire safety.

## Contact:

*Sandy Powell*  
*Alabama Association of School Nurses*  
*c/o Montgomery County Health*  
*Department*  
*3060 Mobile Road*  
*Montgomery, Alabama 36108*  
*334-293-6531*



# ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS:

## LOCATION: STATEWIDE

The Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments (AAVFD) serves as the voice for Alabama volunteer fire fighters. The association is striving to improve the fire service in two basic ways. One way is through legislation by keeping track of laws that affect the fire service and by proposing laws we feel will benefit volunteer fire fighters. The other focus of our work includes promoting training, information exchange, and mutual aid among member fire departments.

## Resources:

Every year the AAVFD holds an annual conference which is rotated among the Northern, Central, and Southern areas of the state. Features of the conference include the annual association business meeting, training and informational sessions, vendor displays, competitions, and an awards banquet.

## Contact:

*Johnny Dennis, President  
660 Adams Avenue, Suite 345  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
334-262-2833*



# ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (ADPH):

## LOCATION: STATEWIDE

The ADPH is working in conjunction with the State Fire Marshal's Office and the Center for Community Health Resource Development at UAB to administer a grant titled "The Alabama Smoke Alarm Initiative". This is a fire safety program designed to decrease Alabama's high residential fire fatality rates.

Participating communities are chosen based upon fire fatality rates, population, and poverty rates. Fire departments within these communities receive a free supply of smoke alarms and fire safety education materials and commit to visit every home within the city limits of their community. The goal of the program is to gain more information on smoke alarm usage, public knowledge of fire safety, and incidences of residential fire within the state. The ADPH is also working in conjunction with the American Red Cross of Central Alabama and the Central Alabama Aging Consortium to provide fall and fire safety training to senior adults.

## Resources:

Smoke alarms, pamphlets, and newsletters are provided free of charge to communities participating in the smoke alarm grant. Fire safety pamphlets and community newsletters can be provided free of charge upon request. There is also a display that can be provided at conferences and meetings. The ASAI fire safety website can be visited at [www.adph.org/injuryprevention](http://www.adph.org/injuryprevention). The ADPH fire safety meetings are open to anyone wanting to help spread the message of fire safety in Alabama.

## Funding:

*Centers for Disease Control & Prevention*

## Contact:

*Amanda Calhoun  
201 Monroe Street, Suite 900  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
334-206-7063  
[amandacalhoun@adph.state.al.us](mailto:amandacalhoun@adph.state.al.us)*

## ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE:

### LOCATION: STATEWIDE

The Alabama Fire College is sponsoring the National Fire Protection Association's Risk Watch® program to interested communities throughout Alabama. To date the Risk Watch program has been presented in 28 communities and reached more than 30,000 Alabama children. This injury prevention program is designed to reach children in preschool through grade eight. It addresses the 8 areas of greatest risk for child death and injury in the United States. Topics include motor vehicle safety; fire and burn prevention; choking, suffocation, and strangulation prevention; poisoning prevention; falls; firearms; bike and pedestrian safety; and water safety. Communities interested in participating must complete a grant application. Ten grants are awarded each year.

### Resources:

Risk Watch curriculum

### Funding:

Alabama Fire College

### Contact:

*Janet LeVert*  
2501 Phoenix Drive  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405  
205-343-7407

**Smoke  
Alarms  
Save  
Lives**

# ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

## LOCATION: STATEWIDE

The State Department of Education (SDE), Prevention and Support Services Section provides technical assistance statewide to all public schools in development, review, and effective implementation of school safety plans, as required by Alabama law. All schools are required to have school safety plans that include clearly marked fire evacuation routes as a part of their comprehensive plan. The SDE is available to provide technical assistance to all schools and/or local education agencies (LEAs) in the following areas:

- School safety and discipline.
- Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC) federal programs (Title IV).
- State at-risk funding and programming. School attendance.
- Building-Based Student Support Teams (BBSST).
- Children First funding and programming.
- Alternative Education School development and implementation

## Resources:

State and Federal funds

## Contact:

*Chris Wilson*

*Education Specialist*

*State Department of Education*

*Prevention and Support*

*Services Section*

*Telephone: 334-242-8165*

*Fax: 334-353-5962*

*cwilson@alsde.edu*



# ALABAMA STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE:

## LOCATION: STATEWIDE

The State Fire Marshal's Office is working to reduce fire deaths and increase public safety by providing inspections, enforcing codes, and providing licenses and permits. Deputy Fire Marshal's are available in every region of the state to provide fire inspections and to conduct fire investigations. Marshal's regularly inspect areas such as storage, educational, residential, businesses, detentional, assemblies, and health. Over 1900 of these areas were inspected in 2002. The State Fire Marshal's Office is also responsible for fire investigations throughout Alabama. During 2002 there were over 822 fire, explosion, and related investigations. This office continues to work with Alabama Smoke Alarm Initiative by identifying high-risk communities and working with the fire departments in those areas to provide smoke alarms and fire safety education.

## Resources:

Fire inspections and investigations throughout the state

## Contact:

*John Robison*

*Alabama State Fire Marshal's  
Office*

*P.O. Box 303352*

*Montgomery, AL 36130-3352*

*334-241-4166*



## AMERICAN RED CROSS OF ALABAMA:

### LOCATION: STATEWIDE

The mission of American Red Cross Disaster Services is to ensure nationwide disaster planning, preparedness, community disaster education, mitigation, and response that will provide the American people with quality services delivered in a uniform, consistent, and responsive manner. Each year, the American Red Cross responds to more than 67,000 disasters nationally, the majority of which are house or apartment fires. When a disaster threatens or strikes, the Red Cross provides shelter, food, and health and mental health services to address basic human needs. The Red Cross also feeds emergency workers, handles inquiries from concerned family members outside the disaster area, provides blood and blood products to disaster victims, and helps those affected by disaster to access other available resources. Additional services may include assisting families with rent, deposits, utilities, and funeral expenses. All assistance is given free of charge thanks to generous contributions of time, skills, and

money from the people of the community.

### Resources:

Volunteers, volunteer training, disaster relief, and brochures on emergency preparedness

### Contact:

*Shawn Barker*  
*Manager of Emergency Services*  
*American Red Cross of Central*  
*Alabama*  
*5015 Woods Crossing*  
*Montgomery, AL 36106*  
*1-800-766-8680*

*Cindy Bahri*  
*Birmingham Area Chapter*  
*American Red Cross*  
*205-458-8282*

# RURAL COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION INSTITUTE:

## LOCATION: STATEWIDE

The Rural Community Fire Protection Institute (RCFPI) was formed in 1989 to meet the informational needs of rural fire fighters, the general public, local government officials, and the Alabama legislature. The RCFPI is striving to reduce fire fatalities and injuries among Alabama's children through the Learn Not to Burn® curriculum and a 911 simulator. The Learn Not to Burn® curriculum teaches 22 key fire safety behaviors and is available to any school in Alabama. The curriculum is intended for use by individual classroom teachers in planning classroom activities. The RCFPI also has a 911 simulator ideal for children in kindergarten through grade three. The unit provides an audible feedback to the children and class exposing them to a 911 call where they provide answers to a pre-recorded 911 operator. Both educational programs are provided free of charge.

## Resources:

Learn Not to Burn® curriculum and 911 simulator

## Contact:

*Teresa Burt*  
660 Adams Avenue, Suite 101  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
1-800-897-7237  
*rcfpi@aol.com*



## LOCATION: STATEWIDE

State Farm Insurance offers an online program, "Smoke Detectives", which provides lesson plans to kindergarten through sixth grade teachers and covers such things as exit drills, fire hazards, stop, drop and roll, etc. Also included on this site are printable teaching aids such as posters and 911 information cards to place next to telephones as well as interactive games that teach fire safety, 911 emergency usage and escape plans. The "Smoke Detectives" program is located at [www.statefarm.com/kidstuff/](http://www.statefarm.com/kidstuff/) along with other safety lessons for children. State Farm is also available to provide 911 simulator demonstrations. State Farm volunteers are available to visit your school and teach children how to dial 911 through an interactive simulator.

## Resources:

Pamphlets, coloring books, volunteers, online safety lessons

## Contact:

*David Majors*  
100 State Farm Parkway  
P.O. Box 2661  
Birmingham, AL 35297  
(205) 916-6098

*Emily Gong*  
(205) 916-6133

You may also contact your local State Farm Agent about these services.

## UAB INJURY CONTROL RESEARCH CENTER:

### **LOCATION: UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM**

The UAB Injury Control Research Center (ICRC) has a long history in the field of injury control and prevention. Its mission is to help the nation achieve an accelerated reduction in injury-related morbidity, mortality, and disability, particularly in the Southeast.

One area that the ICRC has been dedicated to for many years is the optimization of rehabilitation of severely burned persons. The Center has conducted long-term follow up of catastrophically injured persons over the past decade; one group in this cohort is made up of survivors of severe burn injuries. The ICRC looks at outcomes post-injury to determine the importance of rehabilitation, so that future survivors may heal faster, maximize their potential, and resume much of their pre-injury lifestyles.

The UAB ICRC is also active in fire prevention activities across the state. The Alabama Smoke Alarm Initiative was begun as a public service project of the ICRC's External Advisory Committee in 1997 in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Public Health, the State Fire Marshal's office and the UAB Center for Community Resource Development. The ADPH now

leads this organization, and has expanded its programs to touch the lives of even more Alabama households potentially at risk for fires. The ICRC remains as an active participant in ASAI operations.

The ICRC serves as a community resource of current data, prevention information and educational materials. After a recent call from a local television station and a Birmingham neighborhood president, the ICRC partnered with B.U.R.N.S. (a support group for burn survivors) to provide smoke alarms for the homes of those young people who attended the elementary school. The ICRC enlisted the help of the Birmingham Fire Department to conduct an assembly about fire safety, as well.

### **Resources:**

Federal Funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

### **Contact:**

*Philip R. (Russ) Fine, PhD, MSPH  
Professor of Medicine, and  
Director, UAB Injury Control  
Research Center  
Telephone: 205/934-1448  
Fax: 205/975-8143  
Email: rfine@uab.edu*



State of Alabama  
Department of Public Health  
Injury Prevention Division  
The RSA Tower  
201 Monroe Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

[www.adph.org](http://www.adph.org)

Informational materials in alternative  
formats will be made available upon request.

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